

**Question for written answer E-009895/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Rachida Dati (PPE)**

Subject: Improving EU intelligence gathering on migrant trafficking in the Mediterranean

In its communication on an EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling (2015-2020) the Commission stressed the need for accurate information on criminal gangs facilitating the transport of irregular migrants across the Mediterranean to the EU.

With a view to this, in March 2015, with the direct support of 13 Member States, Europol set up a joint operational team (JOT MARE) to gather maritime intelligence for use in efforts to combat people smuggling. The new centre fits in with the multi-agency approach recommended by the Commission, as it is making use of the European external border surveillance system (Eurosir) set up by Frontex, one of the advantages of which is that it may be used to monitor the activities of criminal gangs in non-EU ports.

1. Can the Commission provide information on the setting up of JOT MARE and the action it has taken since March?
2. Can it also provide further details of its proposal to deploy an ad hoc operational team to enhance information collection and operational capabilities?